

Ontario Medical Association

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October 17, 1988

Mr. Vic Johnson
Correspondence & Public Inquiries
Room 274
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Re: Hypersensitivity Disorders

Mr. Chris Brown has asked me to bring the views of the Ontario Medical Association to your attention regarding environmental hypersensitivity disorders. In our view, the term "environmental hypersensitivity disorder" lacks scientific content but this has little to do with the fact that we recognize there is a social problem that should be addressed by social agencies in Ontario. The situation is that individuals are ill with a condition that has not been scientifically defined and they are not being well served in their need for support services. This situation is clearly frustrating for patients, physicians and government and requires careful attention to avoid blaming the victim.

The OMA recognizes a need to advance scientific and medical understanding of this condition and there is widespread support for efforts to improve the ability of practising physicians to treat these patients.

As a better scientific understanding of this condition emerges, research can then be conducted to identify incidence, accurate diagnostic protocol and effective therapies. The Ministry of Health is already committed to research the epidemiology of environmental hypersensitivity disorders and in this context the OMA has recommended using these funds to support the following research objectives:

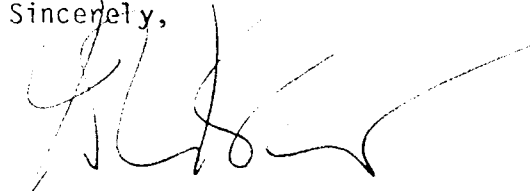
- (i) to define a scientific basis for the illness currently grouped under the heading of environmental hypersensitivity disorder;
- (ii) to identify scientific techniques for evaluating patients with this disorder;
- (iii) to identify treatment protocols that are effective;
- (iv) to design epidemiological studies to establish incidence, prevalence, and test causality.

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I trust this information will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Krauser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Krauser, M.A.
Associate Director
Health Services

JK:md

c.c. Mr. Chris Brown